



# Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

## Crime Prevention Unit



### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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#### Important Numbers:

##### Emergency 911

##### Non-Emergency

703-777-1021

703-777-0445

##### Poison Control

1-800-222-1222

##### Animal Control

703-777-0406

##### Sheriff's Office Admin

703-771-0407

##### Narcotic Tip Line

703-779-0552

##### Crime Solvers

703-777-1919

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### Home Security/Alarm Sales Info.

Recently the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) put out an alert to law enforcement agencies concerning non-licensed alarm system vendors operating in Virginia. DCJS provided all licensing and oversight for alarm companies, including sales and installation. DCJS conducts background checks on company personnel and ensures that only reputable employees are being utilized in this sensitive area.

Here in Loudoun we saw this problem last summer with a company operating from New Jersey and without proper licensing from DCJS. The public is

reminded that should an alarm vendor appear at your residence or solicit at your residence for an alarm system installation or upgrade, residents should ask to see the following identifications:

1: A solicitor license issued by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. (required for all for-profit soliciting)

2: An identification card issued from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

In addition to sales personnel being required to be registered with DCJS, all installation personnel are also required to be

registered with DCJS. Residents are reminded to ask for DCJS identifications for any person who enters their home for the purposes of installation or upgrade of an alarm system.

Should a solicitor or installer not have these identifications, residents are asked to contact the Sheriff's Office so we can respond and identify the company and the employee. This reporting is critical so that DCJS can continue to protect citizens from unscrupulous alarm companies and employees.

### Getting Involved.....

Citizens regularly ask how they can get involved but fear that their identities will become compromised. To help citizens remain anonymous and still keep them involved we have a few telephone numbers they can call and report information and remain totally anonymous.

- If you suspect narcotics (drug) use or sales you can call the Narcotics Tip Line at 703-779-0552.
- If you suspect gang activity or gang participation you can call 1-866-NO-GANGS.(1-866-664-2647)

- If you have information about a crime that is about to occur or has already occurred you can call Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919.

- If you observe suspicious behavior or persons immediately call 703-777-1021

- If your community does not have Neighborhood Watch, give us a call and we can help you set one up. The process is very easy and a community has a much better chance of preventing crime if everyone is working together.

Working together, we can all help keep our community and families safe.



#### WARNING



#### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WE ARE WATCHING TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR PERSONS

TO

LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Frequently Asked Questions

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to **Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov** or **James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov**

## Solicitor Requirements

We are again in the season where we will see an increase in solicitors in our area. In many cases these businesses are legitimate and are providing their customers a service. In other cases these businesses are less than scrupulous and use high pressure sales tactics and intimidation to make sales.

All solicitors that operate inside the county are required to register with the Sheriff's Office. As part of this registration a background check is completed and information on the employer is obtained. Through this process, anyone approved to solicit is issued an identification card showing they are a registered solicitor. (See Pictures). All solicitors are required to display and upon request, provide their identification card to any person they are contacting as a solicitation.

In addition to registering and tracking would be solicitors this process also hold solicitors to a code of conduct. Should a solicitor violate this code of conduct then their privilege will be revoked and they will not be authorized to solicit within Loudoun County for a period of one year.

This code of conduct can be found online at:

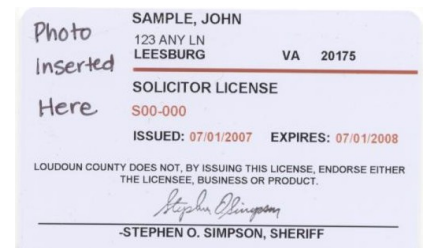
[www.loudoun.gov](http://www.loudoun.gov)

### Examples of these codes are:

- Weekday Soliciting Hours: 9am to 9pm.
- No Sunday's or state or National Holidays
- Must leave when asked by property owner.
- Solicitors must conduct themselves in a lawful and orderly manner.
- Must identify self and purpose of being on the property.
- Must give written receipt for all transactions.

Any person who witnesses a violation of this code of conduct or encounters a solicitor who refuses to provide their county issued solicitor permit or does not have a permit should contact the Sheriff's Office at the non-emergency number and report the incident immediately. Deputies will follow up and check the area for the solicitor. If the case warrants, deputies have the option to issue a summons for a violation of the county ordinance.

### Solicitor Permit



## Vacation Safety

As we enter the summer season many of us will be looking forward to our summer vacations. To help make your vacation a safe and positive memory here are some tips for those heading out of town.

- Take a close look at the hotel you may be staying at during your vacation. Check with local law enforcement about the neighborhood and the hotel.
- If you are renting a condo, be sure to check on crime stats for the neighborhood. Check to see if the neighborhood has changed since you were there last.
- Check local crime stats for any unusual activity or recent crime trends that you and your family should be aware of.
- Keep in mind that criminals will often target tourists. Be mindful of your surroundings, especially at night.
- Utilize in hotel safes and lockboxes. Your valuables can be easily removed while maids and cleaning services are cleaning the rooms.
- If you travel abroad be sure to make copies of all of your required documents. IE: Passport, Travel Vouchers, Airline Tickets, Travelers Checks, US Identification Cards. Keep this copy in a safe location in case the originals are stolen.
- Be sure to check in with the US Embassy to let them know where you are staying so they can contact you in case of an emergency.
- Check the Department of State website for any security warnings about where you may be visiting.
- Have a plan if you have to leave in a hurry. Know how to get to the embassy, airport, train station, or port on your own. Buy or download an English language map of the area you will be visiting.
- Keep a small amount of local currency on hand in case of an emergency.
- Study up on local customs and rules so you keep yourself and family out of trouble.